REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment and the following remarks are intended to fully respond to the Office Action dated August 25, 2004. Applicants are unable to locate the embedded hyperlink or browsable content referred to in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner cite a page and paragraph for the location of the hyperlink. Once specified, Applicants can address the objection.

Claims 1-15, 17-28 and 30-33 were examined in the Office Action, and all claims were rejected. More specifically, claims 1-15, 17-28 and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (USPN 6,668,354). Reconsideration of these rejections, as they might apply to the original and amended claims in view of these remarks, is respectfully requested.

In this Response, claims 1, 17, and 30 have been amended; claims 8 and 21 have been amended for typographical changes; no claims have been canceled; and no new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-15, 17-28, and 30-33 remain present for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-15, 17-28 and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (USPN 6,668,354). The included claims have been amended to delineate between Chen and the present invention. The present invention does not create style sheets for formatting XML web content as described in Chen.

Claim 1

The present invention provides, as recited in amended claim 1, a computer system configured for providing themes for graphical components. The computer system has memory

and comprises a selecting module receiving a user request for a selected theme having an associated non-binary theme file with theme properties <u>accessible by one or more processes</u>; a converting module converting the associated non-binary theme file into a binary theme file to facilitate retrieval of theme properties; and a loading module loading the binary theme file into the memory so that themes can be applied to the graphical components. A theme, as recited in claim 1 and on page 8 of the present application, is a collection or set of appearance characteristics relating to a particular subject or desired visual environment. The present invention allows the user of the computer to specify which of a number of predefined themes is to be applied to the controls and other components of the visual display. One or more processes or applications operating within the graphical operating system environment may access the predefined themes.

Chen describes a system for automatically generating a style sheet that includes a parser for generating a document type graph in accordance with an input style or structure, a graphical user interface tool for interactively mapping the document type graph to form a display template in accordance with user requirements, and a script generator for generating the style sheet in accordance with the graphical user interface and the design template.

Style sheets, as understood in the industry, are used to define the layout characteristics of hypertext documents. Specifically, style sheets are text files that provide a set of layout specifications for HTML documents. <u>See</u> Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 5th Edition, page 501. The layout specifications in the style sheet are kept separate from the content because the layout specifications are defined globally. In addition, style sheets help separate the presentation and structure of an HTML document to improve accessibility. Chen also uses the term "data type definition (DTD)." Applicants were unable to determine the meaning of a "data type definition,"

12

but believe that Chen was referring to the standard industry term, document type definition (DTD). A DTD is a separate document that contains the formal definitions for the data elements in a type of SGML, XML, or HTML document. The parser, mentioned above, works with the markup codes that the DTD document contains. See Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 5th Edition, page 179. Thus, Chen provides a system for automatically generating a style sheet that can change the layout or appearance of an HTML document inside a web browser.

Applicants respectfully traverse the section § 102(e) rejections. The Examiner has failed to substantiate a prima facie case of anticipation because the requirement of a prima facie case is absent. Indeed, a prima facie case of anticipation can only be met when the reference teaches or suggests all the claim limitations. See MPEP § 2131. Chen does not describe: a selecting module receiving a user request for a selected theme having an associated non-binary theme file with theme properties accessible by one or more processes; a converting module converting the associated non-binary theme file into a binary theme file to facilitate retrieval of theme properties; or a loading module loading the binary theme file into the memory so that themes can be applied to the graphical components.

Chen does not mention, teach, or suggest a selecting module receiving a user request for a selected theme having an associated non-binary theme file with theme properties accessible by one or more processes; a converting module converting the associated non-binary theme file into a binary theme file to facilitate retrieval of theme properties; or a loading module loading the binary theme file into the memory so that themes can be applied to the graphical components. The graphical user interface tool for interactively mapping the document type graph to form a display template and the script generator for generating the style sheet described in Chen are different from the theming system of the present invention. The description in Chen only applies

13

to a display for a markup document of web content. Chen does not create or operate on themes for the graphical user interface, accessible by one or more processes, of a computer system. Further, the system described in Chen would not be capable of creating themes, accessible by one or more processes, because the script language and DTD graphs are used with a markup document. Simply, Chen is not applicable to the creation of themes for user interfaces but only applies to the creation of a HTML document format and appearance in a web browser.

For the above reasons, Applicants' independent claim 1 is allowable over Chen.

Claim 8

The present invention, as recited in claim 8, provides a method for creating a visual style for a set of graphical components for use on a computer system having a graphical operating environment and processes with shared memory. The method comprises selecting graphical components from a schema file of graphical components, that are desired to have a defined visual style, each component being defined by a unique class name; assigning properties to the selected components according to the defined visual style so that each selected component has assigned properties; grouping the pairs of selected graphical components and corresponding assigned properties for the defined visual style together in a class data file; converting the class data file into a binary theme file having a class data section having class names and assigned properties in a binary format; and loading the binary theme file into the shared memory so that a visual style can be used to render graphical components.

Office Action asserts that Chen anticipates claim 8. Applicants' respectfully disagree and assert that at least for the reasons stated above with regard to claim 1, Chen does not mention, teach, or suggest: converting the class data file into a binary theme file having a class data section having class names and assigned properties in a binary format; or loading the binary

14

theme file into the shared memory so that a visual style can be used to render graphical components. Chen applies only to web content and not to themes for a user interface. In addition, Chen creates a single style sheet and does not mention creating a class data section in the class data file. For these reasons, Applicants' claim 8 is allowable over Chen.

Claim 17

The present invention, as recited in amended claim 17, provides a method of retrieving graphical component theme property data on a computer system having a graphical operating system and processes. The method comprises receiving a rendering request from a graphical component of one of the processes in the graphical operating system, the request having a theme handle and a component state; accessing a binary theme file to retrieve theme property data for the requesting process; and retrieving graphical component theme property data from the binary theme file.

Office Action asserts that Chen anticipates claim 17. Applicants' respectfully disagree and assert that at least for the reasons stated above with regard to claim 1, Chen does not mention, teach, or suggest: receiving a rendering request from a graphical component of one of the processes in the graphical operating system, the request having a theme handle and a component state; accessing a binary theme file to retrieve theme property data for the requesting process; and retrieving graphical component theme property data from the binary theme file. Chen creates a style sheet for a single hypertext document. Chen does not receive a render request from a grpahical component of a process in the graphical operating system. For these reasons, Applicants' claim 17 is allowable over Chen.

Claim 21

The present invention, as recited in claim 21, provides a computer program product readable by a computing system and encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process for creating a visual style for a set of graphical components for use on a computer system having a graphical operating environment and processes with shared memory. The computer process comprises: selecting graphical components from a schema file of graphical components, that are desired to have a defined visual style, each component being defined by a unique class name; assigning properties to the selected components according to the defined visual style so that each selected component has assigned properties; grouping the pairs of selected graphical components and corresponding assigned properties for the defined visual style together in a class data file; converting the class data file into a binary theme file having a class data section having class names and assigned properties in a binary format; and loading the binary theme file into the shared memory so that a visual style can be used to render graphical components.

Office Action asserts that Chen anticipates claim 21. Applicants' respectfully disagree and assert that at least for the reasons stated above with regard to claim 1 and claim 8, Chen does not mention, teach, or suggest: converting the class data file into a binary theme file having a class data section having class names and assigned properties in a binary format; or loading the binary theme file into the shared memory so that a visual style can be used to render graphical components. For these reasons, Applicants' claim 21 is allowable over Chen.

Claim 30

The present invention, as recited in claim 30, provides a computer program product readable by a computing system and encoding a computer program of instructions for executing

a computer process for retrieving graphical component theme property data on a computer system having a graphical operating system and processes. The method comprises: receiving a rendering request from a graphical component of one of the processes in the graphical operating system, the request having a theme handle and a component state; accessing a binary theme file to retrieve theme property data for the requesting process; and retrieving graphical component theme property data from the binary theme file.

Office Action asserts that Chen anticipates claim 30. Applicants' respectfully disagree and assert that at least for the reasons stated above with regard to claim 1 and claim 17, Chen does not mention, teach, or suggest: receiving a rendering request from a graphical component, the request having a theme handle and a component state; accessing a binary theme file to retrieve theme property data for the requesting process; and retrieving graphical component theme property data from the binary theme file. For these reasons, Applicants' claim 30 is allowable over Chen.
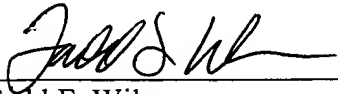
Conclusion

As now present, independent claims 1, 8, 17, 21, and 30 are allowable. All dependent claims depending from the allowable independent claims are also allowable. In light of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned to attempt to resolve those issues.

Application No. 09/827,993

It is believed that no further fees are due with this Response. However, the

Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with

respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

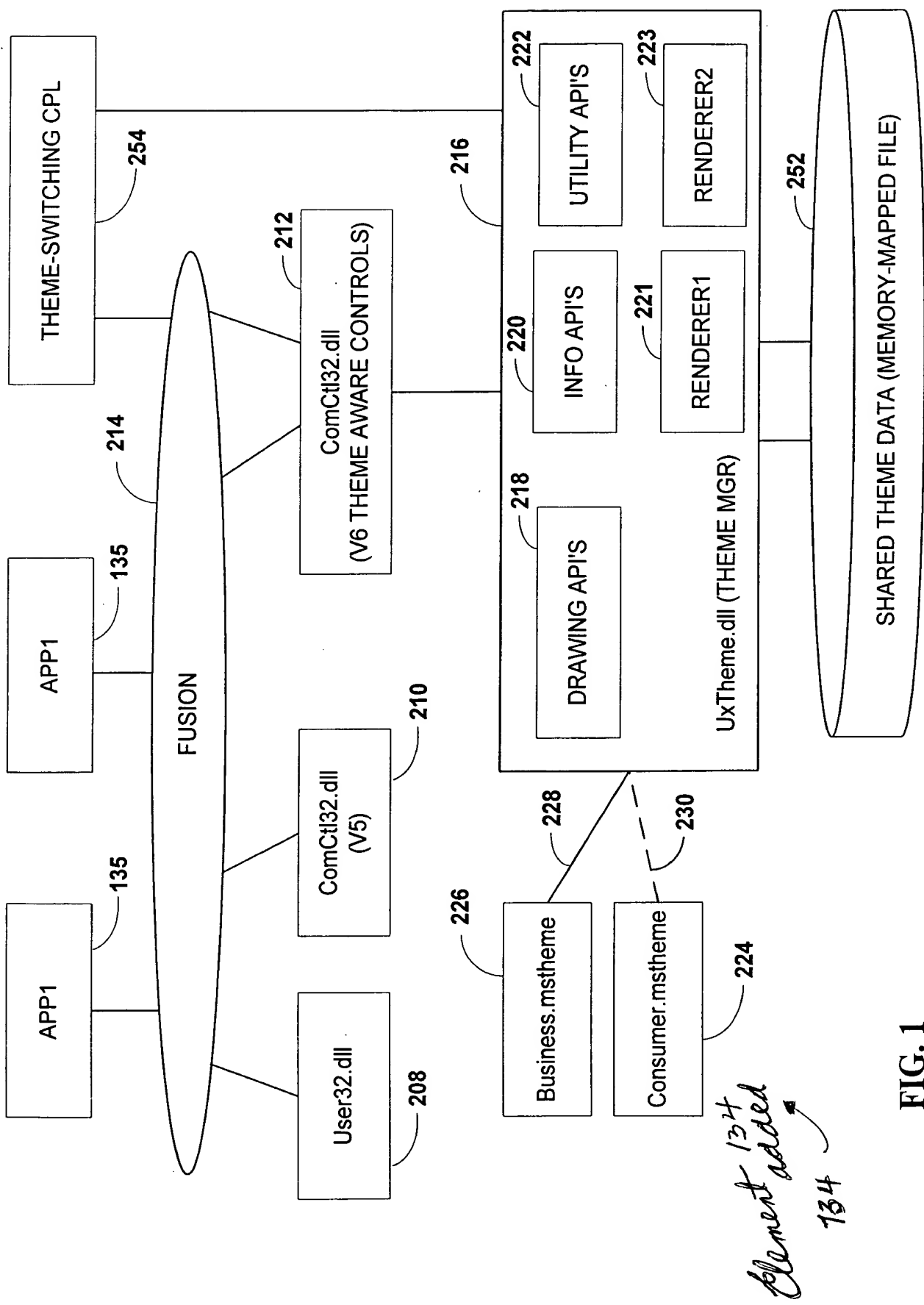The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet replaces the original sheet for Fig. 1.

APP1 — 135

APP1 — 135

THEME-SWITCHING CPL — 254

FUSION — 214

User32.dll — 208

ComCtl32.dll (V5) — 210

ComCtl32.dll (V6 THEME AWARE CONTROLS) — 212

216

UxTheme.dll (THEME MGR)

DRAWING API'S — 218

INFO API'S — 220

UTILITY API'S — 222

RENDERER1 — 221

RENDERER2 — 223

SHARED THEME DATA (MEMORY-MAPPED FILE) — 252

Business.mstheme — 226

228

Consumer.mstheme — 224

230

element added 134

134

FIG. 1